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LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BELGIUM TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the French and English versions of the declaration on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and on the convoying of humanitarian aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina that was adopted by the European Council at Brussels on 29 October 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Alexis BROUHNS
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Belgium
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and on the convoying of humanitarian aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The European Council notes with concern the stagnation of the negotiating process in the former Yugoslavia. It appeals once more to the parties to resume the negotiations without delay in order to reach a fair and durable agreement and asks them to refrain from any act of hostility and to halt the violence. The European Council condemns the atrocities recently perpetrated by the Croatian forces in Stupni Do.

The European Council expresses its great anxiety at the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It condemns in the strongest possible terms the acts of deliberate aggression perpetrated on humanitarian-aid convoys in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in particular the most recent attack which left a number of casualties amongst humanitarian-aid personnel and led to the suspension of the United Nations of humanitarian aid to central Bosnia.

The international community has deployed considerable efforts to reduce the misery and suffering of the civilian population. A number of people of remarkable courage and devotion have been killed or wounded in carrying out their mission of international solidarity. We must act to remove all obstacles to free access for humanitarian aid so that that aid can continue.

The European Council holds the parties to the conflict directly responsible for establishing the conditions essential for any continuation of humanitarian aid, particularly as winter approaches. In this connection it demands firm and credible guarantees, which must be given effect, and requests Lord Owen to communicate those demands with urgency and insistence to the leaders of the three parties, who are responsible for passing on the necessary orders to local leadership.

The European Council agrees to support the convoying of humanitarian aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of the following guidelines:

- A greater financial effort to help the population under pressure, combined with intervention with non-member countries to contribute;

- The identification and restoration of priority routes, in particular to Sarajevo;

- Obtaining the agreement of all parties to the preservation of those humanitarian routes;

- The use of all appropriate means to support the convoying of humanitarian aid;

- Reinforcing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) so that more troops are available to protect the aid routes.

The European Council consequently invites the Council to adopt detailed provisions for joint action on the basis of the above, while maintaining close coordination with the United Nations.

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